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Kohl Aide Says Switch on Bitburg Would Harm U.S.-Germany Ties

By JAMES M. MARKHAM
Special to The New York Times

BONN, April 24 — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's spokesman said today that relations between West Germany and the United States would be damaged if President Reagan decided to call off a scheduled stop at a German military cemetery next month.

Mr. Reagan has been heatedly criticized by Jewish organizations, veterans' groups and others for his intention to visit the cemetery, which includes the graves of 47 Waffen SS soldiers.

The West German spokesman, Peter Boenisch, reacting to comments by White House aides Tuesday, also said at a news conference that after the Chancellor spoke to Mr. Reagan on Friday no attempt had been made by "the White House or its environs" to seek an alternative to the Bitburg military cemetery visit. Mr. Boenisch insisted, as Mr. Kohl had last week, that the plans for Mr. Reagan's state visit on May 3-4 were final.

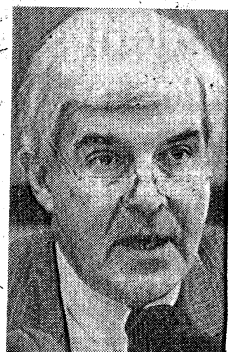
On Tuesday a White House official said that a private message from the White House had been sent to Mr. Kohl over the weekend essentially urging him to seek an alternative to the Bitburg cemetery visit. One White House official said the message had been signed either by the national security

advisers or by the German government, but he fears he will lose face before the West German public if he is forced to abandon the Bitburg visit. Mr. Reagan's decision to go to the cemetery, especially in the face of the outcry in the United States, seems to be extremely popular in West Germany.

In the Chancellor's calculations is a pivotal election that will be held in West Germany's most populous state, North-Rhine-Westphalia, on May 12, just after the Bonn summit meeting of major non-Communist industrial nations, the Reagan visit and the May 8 ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of Germany's surrender in World War II.

The opposition Social Democrats have so far limited themselves to tweaking Mr. Kohl for supposed incompetence, bad staffing and insensitivity to history in stumbling into the Bitburg imbroglio. But they have not openly demanded that Mr. Kohl withdraw the invitation to visit the cemetery, a hedge that suggests they, too, have gauged the popularity of the undertaking in the country.

A resolution by the Social Democrats' parliamentary group accused Mr. Kohl tonight of having damaged



Peter Boenisch, spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

West Germany's esteem in the world and relations between the United States and West Germany through his mishandling of the Reagan program.

The resolution also welcomed the inclusion of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in the itinerary as well as the remembering of German soldiers who were exploited by a "criminal regime in a war of aggression" — an allusion to the Bitburg stop.

Dole Urges Reagan to Cancel Cemetery Trip

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dy," and said "the exercise now is damage control."

Speaking to reporters at a breakfast meeting, Mr. Wick said, essentially, that the situation involving the Bitburg visit may worsen because demonstrators are expected there to protest the planned wreath-laying ceremony.

"I think you'll have world television coverage and people from all over Western Europe, some of them dressed in concentration camp clothes" to demonstrate against Mr. Reagan's visit, said Mr. Wick.

He added that the goal of American-German reconciliation after 40 years had now been "totally obscured" by the Bitburg visit.

Publicly, the White House declined to comment on Mr. Wick's statements. Privately, one ranking official expressed irritation at Mr. Wick's blunt comments about an issue that has made White House aides increasingly testy.

Asked if Mr. Reagan could back out at this point, Mr. Wick replied, "I really don't know." Mr. Wick was asked if he would recommend that Mr. Reagan cancel the Bitburg visit.

"I'm not sure I'll recommend anything," he replied.

Mr. Dole's comments urging Mr. Reagan to cancel the visit came in brief

comments to reporters on Capitol Hill as well as in an appearance on the NBC News program "Today." Mr. Dole said he had "made it clear that I think it's a mistake," adding, "I think they should find another place or not make the Bitburg visit."

Mr. Dole's comments carry weight not simply because he is Senate majority leader. During World War II, while an Army second lieutenant leading an infantry squad across the Po Valley in northern Italy, a German machine gun cut him down. He was severely wounded, and has a disabled right arm.

Mr. Dole said he had not made a direct request to Mr. Reagan about not going. "I've indicated that was a hope. I haven't made any request." So far a bipartisan group of more than 53 senators has expressed opposition to the visit. Senator Dole was not among them.

At the White House, Larry Speakes, the spokesman, denied a report in The New York Times that said efforts had begun to find a way to reverse the decision to visit Bitburg. But other White House aides said any reversal would depend on Mr. Kohl, and there was still some hope that the West German would alter his insistence that Mr. Reagan visit Bitburg. And late today Mr. Reagan, the chief of staff, confirmed that the Administration had "been in touch with the German Government"

since Mr. Reagan spoke to Mr. Kohl on Friday.

Meanwhile, a group of ethnic and other groups joined Jewish groups and veterans' organizations protesting the Bitburg visit. The coalition of black, Hispanic, Asian, Polish, Lithuanian, Ukrainian and other groups said in a telegram to President Reagan:

"We add our united voice to the chorus of the Jewish people, American veterans' organizations, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, a majority of the United States Senate, including leaders of your own party, and thousands of American families who continue to mourn for fathers, husbands, brothers and sons slain by the Nazis during World War II, in urging you to cancel your visit."

In New York, Menachem Rosensaft, chairman of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, with about 5,000 sons and daughters of former concentration camp victims, said the organization was seeking to spur efforts for protesters to fly to Germany and demonstrate over Mr. Reagan's visit to Bitburg. He said the organization was working together with "German Christian groups" who had "struggled over the past 40 years to create a new image for Germany and disassociate themselves completely from the atrocities of the Nazi era."

Excerpts From the Text of President's Speech on the Budget

WASHINGTON, April 24 — Following are excerpts from the official White House text of President Reagan's televised speech on the budget tonight:

Just 4 years ago this week I asked your support for our bipartisan recovery program. That was the program the spenders said wouldn't work and they called it Reaganomics.

You turned America around: turned around her confidence, turned around her economy, turned around over a decade of one national nightmare after another. We're into our 29th straight month of economic growth, with inflation staying down, and more of us working than ever before — that's eight million new jobs. Now that our program is working, you may have noticed they're not calling it Reaganomics anymore.

And yet, all our progress, all the good we've accomplished so far, and all our dreams for the future could be wrecked if we do not overcome our one giant obstacle.

The simple truth is, no matter how hard you work, no matter how strong this economy grows, no matter how much more tax money comes to Washington, it won't amount to a hill of beans if Government won't curb its endless appetite to spend.

There is no magic money machine. Every dollar the Government spends comes out of your pockets. Every dollar the Government gives to someone has to first be taken away

from someone else.

Not surprisingly, some still want to raise your taxes. They say we cut your taxes too much in 1981, when we ended years of bracket creep and lowered rates for every American taxpayer. This is simply untrue. And it implies Government has a right to take from you all that it needs to satisfy the demands of special interest groups. Government should tax to meet Government's needs, not Government's wants.

Nine days ago, I received a very welcome gift — a letter with 146 signatures. One hundred forty-six Members of Congress have pledged to uphold what — I repeat tonight — will be my certain veto of any tax increase Congress sends me, no matter how cleverly it's disguised.

What went wrong? Where has all the money gone? Well, during the strong, prosperous Eisenhower years in the 1950's, and through the Kennedy years, we kept spending in check. During those Kennedy years, there was a tax cut proposed similar to our cut. It was enacted in 1964 and the economy grew then as it has grown now.

But others in Government did not take the next logical step and say: "Look, freedom and incentives are working. So let's reduce tax rates further, let's transform our ghettos into havens for enterprise, give families new incentives to save for their children's education. Let's make every citizen a share-

holder in America's future."

Government did the opposite. Government began to take over America. In the name of the Great Society, it began doing things never before felt possible or desirable. Government took over passenger railroads. It began contributing billions to 39,000 local government budgets. Its spending on agriculture subsidies soared to a level higher than the total net income from every farm in America.

Today, Government puts a dime into the fare box every time somebody boards a local bus or transit line. Today, Government subsidizes loans for every imaginable purpose, from education, to aircraft exporters, to luxury waterfront developments and hotels. Government's lending business is bigger than Chase Manhattan and the Bank of America's combined, and the spending line keeps going up.

My fellow citizens, the time has come for Government to make the same hard choices your families and businesses do. The time has come for your public servants to bring spending down into line with tax revenues.

Spending 'Not Created Equal'

Accomplishing this is the heart of our deficit reduction plan that we put together with Senator Dole and his colleagues.

Our plan attacks excessive spending across the board. No part of the budget is spared, and shared effort will be asked of all.

But unlike a spending freeze, which would not reduce deficits nearly enough, and which would make no distinction between worthy and wasteful programs, our plan recognizes that all spending is not created equal.

Our first priority must always be our national security. The Soviets are far more dangerous today than during the fifties and sixties — periods in which we devoted far more to our defense. And they continue arming well beyond the defense needs of their country. Because of that threat, we must maintain modest but steady growth each year. Three percent is the rock bottom level we must maintain for effective deterrence to protect our security.

Our plan will freeze the defense spending share of our gross national product at 6.4 percent for the next 3 years, a share well below the 8 to 9 percent at the time of Eisenhower and Kennedy. The remaining two-thirds of our deficit reduction can and must come from other parts of the budget, from domestic programs that are no longer necessary or in need of basic reform.

When Amtrak was begun in 1971 for a two-year trial run, we were told it would soon turn a profit. Fourteen years and nearly \$9 billion later, Amtrak is still running on taxpayer subsidies. Eliminating Amtrak will save \$3 billion over the next decade.

We'll also save billions by eliminating taxpayer subsidies to some of America's biggest

corporations through Export-Import Bank loans, and by abolishing the Small Business Administration's lending programs, which are not only costly and unfair, but unneeded in an economy creating over 600,000 new business incorporations a year.

One area we will not touch, however, is the safety net for needy Americans. Programs that provide income, food, housing, and medical aid for the neediest Americans were reformed in 1981 and are now targeted to genuine need. But these programs only make up 8 percent of the budget, so we need everyone's help to get spending under control.

We are asking the 46 million Americans who receive a retirement, veterans or Social Security check to accept a guaranteed 2 percent increase over the next 3 years, in place of the existing cost-of-living adjustment. If, however, inflation should rise above 4 percent, the amount above 4 percent would be added to the 2 percent.

Even with all our cuts and reforms, our plan still provides \$500 billion for nondefense programs next year — the highest level in history. Congress has before it a budget that doesn't mortgage our future to higher taxes and expanding debt. It is a fair program; it is a balanced program; it will protect the neediest among us; it will stop the worst abuses of overspending, and it not only deserves your support, it must have your support to pass.